

Mr. Chairman, the story of Crestwood began in 1986, when the Illinois EPA was notified that the well water that was being used for public consumption was contaminated and was found to be unsuitable under federal EPA standards. Officials from the Village of Crestwood told State EPA authorities that the well would no longer be used for drinking purposes, but would remain open for emergency uses only, such as fighting fires.

Unbelievably, despite the warning from the IL EPA to the Crestwood officials about using the well for public consumption, for another 20 years, from 1986–2007, untreated well water was mixed with Lake Michigan water and was piped into the homes of village residents for drinking and other uses.

Mr. Chairman, for over 20 years, the citizens of Crestwood Village were consuming water, filled with contaminants, while the IL EPA never went back in to test the water quality or ensure that Crestwood officials had followed their edict to stop using the well for public consumption.

Then, in December 2007, acting on a tip from a private citizen, Tricia Krause, the IL EPA decided to test the well water for the first time since they were first alerted to the problem in 1986.

During these tests, the IL EPA found that the well water contained unacceptable levels of perchloroethylene (PCE), a chemical linked to liver damage and neurological problems, as well as other carcinogenic chemicals that were higher than federal standards permit.

Mr. Chairman, it took the brave and courageous act of an everyday, hardworking, private citizen, Ms. Tricia Krause, to finally pull the plug on the nefarious and despicable acts of Crestwood officials. For 20 years, these officials willfully and reprehensibly lied to State authorities and fed contaminated water to the very citizens they were sworn to protect.

After Ms. Krause blew the whistle on these despicable acts and the story became public, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice executed search warrants and found that Village officials had been falsifying records regarding the purchase and delivery of water to its citizens for over 20 years.

And while we must acknowledge and praise the work of courageous citizens like Ms. Krause for taking matters into her own hands to shed light and seek justice, we must also do everything in our power to make it more difficult for immoral and despicable public officials to dupe the public again and feed contaminated and poisonous water to our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, the steps that you have taken in this bill will go a long way toward restoring the public trust in the system by requiring our State agencies, which are in many cases the last line of defense in ensuring public safety, to go that extra step to protect the public.

This language would simply compel the EPA to set up requirements for notifying the public served by a water system when different types of violations occur. The EPA would be allowed to use the same categories of violations that have already been developed under subsection (c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Additionally, for each category of violation, the EPA will determine what types of follow-up inspections are needed, and how many inspections the State will need to carry out. This

gets right at the issue of the Illinois EPA not being required to go out and check whether the contaminated well was being used, without being overly burdensome if the violations are not related to public safety.

Mr. Chairman, as representatives of the people we serve, for most of us the actions taken by Village of Crestwood officials would be unconscionable. In all of my time as a public servant, I have rarely encountered public officials acting so egregiously against their own citizens or abusing their power in a way that puts the public safety at risk.

In March 2010, the IL Dept. of Public Health released a report that found cancer rates were “significantly elevated” in Crestwood residents, with higher-than-expected cases of kidney cancer in men, lung cancer in men and women, and gastrointestinal cancer in men.

While researchers could not make a definite link between the consumption of contaminated water for 20 years for the 11,000 residents of Crestwood and the elevated rates of cancer there, they determined it was possible that toxic chemicals in the drinking water caused the extra cancer cases.

Well, I’m not a researcher, but I can analyze commonsense, and for me, the coincidence between drinking cancer-causing contaminated water for 20 years and then having higher-than-normal rates of cancer appear in those same citizens shows that there must be some connection between the two.

With our actions here today and in moving this bill forward, it is my sincere hope that no other community in America will have to suffer from the reprehensible acts of a few despicable public servants who would seek to abuse the public trust.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, for allowing me to participate today.

CONGRATULATING ERMA JOHNSON HADLEY AND RECOGNIZING HER MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE AND HER COMMUNITY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate Erma Johnson Hadley, the newly appointed Chancellor of the Tarrant County College District, and to recognize her many accomplishments to TCC and her community. Hadley is not only the first female to be named Chancellor of TCC, but also the first African American.

Hadley has been with TCC, which includes five districts and has an enrollment of more than 45,000 students, for over 40 years. Prior to being named Chancellor, Hadley has served as both a faculty member and administrator, including Director of Personnel, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, and Vice Chancellor for Administration.

During her distinguished tenure at TCC, Hadley has been voted “Outstanding Teacher”, she established the District’s call center, and created the TCC Employee Scholarship Program, among other notable accomplishments. Hadley has also served as Equal Opportunity Officer and formerly oversaw the Ad-

missions, Records and Registration departments.

In addition to her service to TCC, Hadley has contributed significantly to the local community for more than 35 years. She has served as Chairman of the Tarrant County Hospital District Board of Managers, Chairman of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Board, and Chairman of the North Texas Commission. Hadley was also selected by former Texas Governor Bill Clements for the Trinity River Authority of Texas and former Texas Governor George W. Bush for the Texas Governor’s Committee on Volunteerism.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate and recognize the accomplishments of Erma Johnson Hadley, Chancellor of the Tarrant County College District. It is a privilege to represent such a dedicated community member and public servant, and such a superb educational institution, in the United States House of Representatives.

#### 2010 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from my Congressional District, Stephanie Taylor of South Allegheny High School. Ms. Taylor is the winner of the 2010 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania’s High School Art Competition, “An Artistic Discovery.” Ms. Taylor’s artwork, an acrylic painting entitled “Leaves,” was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year’s competition.

In fact, sixty works from twelve different schools in Pennsylvania’s 14th Congressional District were submitted to our panel of respected local artists. It’s a real tribute to her skill and vision that her work was chosen as the winner of this year’s competition. I am certain that Ms. Taylor’s family is proud of her artistic talents and this impressive accomplishment.

Ms. Taylor’s artwork will represent the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students’ artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year. I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Ms. Taylor’s artwork, along with the winning entries from the high school art contests held in other Congressional Districts, which will be on display in the Capitol tunnel. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

I would like to recognize all of the participants in this year’s 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, “An Artistic Discovery” from Brashear High School, Nour Qutyan; from the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Zoe Capcara, Emily Daley, Kyle Gorcey, Amber Key, Noel Peterson, and Audrey Stygar; from East Allegheny High School, Cody Atkins, Nikki Croft, Chey A. Gojkovich, Randy Stegner, Jr., Brianna Stevens, and Jacob Williams; from Northgate High School, Carolyn Denes, Alison Gusew, Seth Huston, Collyn